Chemical and Mechanical Explosion Isolation Barriers

Key
1. Roof mounted dust collector
2. Rapid propagation of flame (flashback)
3. Unprotected vessel facing imminent destruction

Application
Both NFPA 654 and ATEX require explosion isolation to be considered to reduce the risk of explosion propagation between interconnected vessels, yet many vessels are installed without this vital component. Take the example shown here. A dust collector is installed which has an explosion relief vent panel. Mounted on top of a roof it will vent an explosion to atmosphere. However, without an isolation barrier, flame can propagate at high velocities from the collector to interconnected vessels causing devastating, more intense secondary explosions. The secondary explosions can be more intense because of pressure piling, induced turbulence and flame jet ignition effects associated with the connected explosion. Simply venting interconnected vessels is inadequate.
Isolation Valve Solution
IEP Technologies explosion isolation valves close rapidly to provide a mechanical barrier to mitigate propagation of an explosion. By design, it can withstand the full pressure of an explosion from a closed vessel. In the installation example shown the valve is subject to a light pressure load because the dust collector is installed with an explosion relief vent panel. Although its mechanical strength may not be totally utilized in all applications, it is often chosen to isolate low-strength, interconnected vessels from propagating explosion when product contamination is a concern. Mounted on the vessel detect the pressure excursion from an impending explosion, the detectors transmit a signal to a control panel, which triggers the high-speed isolation valve while simultaneously shutting down the process.

Chemical Isolation Solution
IEP Technologies chemical (suppressant) explosion isolation barriers are triggered in the same manner as the high-speed isolation valve solution described above. In response to the triggering signal they rapidly discharge extinguishing agent into the duct reducing the risk of passage of flame and burning materials to interconnected process equipment. In a large duct, suppressant distribution is provided through 3-in (75mm). piping / stubs. For a smaller sized ducts, smaller (e.g. 1-in, 25mm). hose assemblies can be connected to a bracket mounted suppressor.

Contact Information
For additional information, please contact one of the following locations:

IEP Technologies
United States: Tel: +1 (855) 793 8407
United Kingdom: Tel: +44(0) 1242 283 060
Switzerland: Tel: +41 (0) 62 207 10 10
Germany: Tel: +49 (0) 2102 5889 0

Key
1. High Speed Isolation Valve
2. Explosion Relief Panel
3. Pressure Detector
4. Single Zone Control Panel

Key
1. Extinguisher, delivery pipe work, and flanged suppressant delivery nozzle
2. Bracket mounted extinguisher with dual-exit head and suppressant delivery hoses